

Peer Mentoring to Support Students with Disabilities

Welcome and Introductions



Who is in our Community?



What will make this a successful experience for you?

<http://goo.gl/n3vxfe>



What is a Community of Practice?

- ▶ It connects people who may never come into contact otherwise.
- ▶ It provides a shared context for people to communicate and share information.
- ▶ It enables dialogue between people who have an interest in solving the same or similar problems.
- ▶ It stimulates learning by serving as a vehicle for communication, mentoring, coaching or self-reflection.
- ▶ It captures and diffuses existing knowledge.
- ▶ It introduces collaborative processes and encourages the free flow of ideas and information, thus helping people to organize around purposeful actions.
- ▶ It generates new knowledge.

Positive and Hopeful Language

- Please see handout in your package

Who are students with significant disabilities?

Students with moderate to severe cognitive disabilities, irrespective of cause.

This diverse group includes students with a wide range of:

- ▶ disability characteristics
- ▶ capabilities
- ▶ educational needs.

Who are students with significant disabilities?

These students' non-disability characteristics (e.g., interests, preferences, personalities, socioeconomic levels, cultural heritage) are as

diverse as the general population.

Who are students with significant disabilities?

These students may have **similar** needs related to cognition but **differing** needs in other areas related to socialization, communication, behaviour, or medical needs

- ▶ Approximately **1%** of the student population has significant disabilities

TASH
(formerly The Association for Persons
with Severe Disabilities)
identified the persons for whom it advocates
as those

“...who **require ongoing support** in one or
more major life activities in order to
participate in an integrated community and
enjoy a quality of life similar to that
available to all...”

Snell reminds us....

...that in addition to their collective diversity
and need for lifelong supports,
individuals with significant disabilities
share a fundamental human trait,
the “**capacity to learn**”

Snell, 2003 (p. 2210)

And Van der Klift and Kunc remind us:

“When *disability* is seen
as the largest component of a person,
much of what is unique and human
about him or her
is obscured.”

And from Michael Giangreco....

“Part of our work is the struggle to find a **balance** between attending to the undoubtedly special needs of individuals with severe disabilities and their right to live regular lives

[or participate in learning and school life in regular and robust ways....]

A key aspect of this work is **creativity** and **unwavering persistence.**”



InspiringEducation

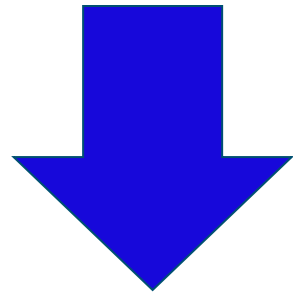
A DIALOGUE WITH ALBERTANS



Inspiring Education values

citizenship
opportunity fairness
diversity
excellence choice

diversity



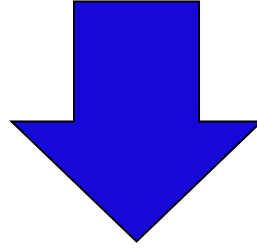
Learners' differing needs, cultures, and abilities are
respected and valued
within inclusive learning environments

Inspiring Education guiding principles

- ▶ Learner-centred
- ▶ Shared responsibility and accountability
- ▶ Engaged communities
- ▶ Inclusive, equitable access
- ▶ Responsive, flexible approach
- ▶ Sustainable and efficient use of resources
- ▶ Innovation to promote and strive for excellence



Inclusive, Equitable Access



- ▶ Every learner should have fair and reasonable access to educational opportunities regardless of ability, economic circumstance, location, or cultural background
- ▶ Some learners will require additional, specialized supports to fully access these opportunities

The fundamental goal of education in Alberta

Inspire all students to:

- ▶ achieve success and fulfillment
- ▶ reach their full potential by developing the competencies of **Engaged Thinkers** and **Ethical Citizens** with an **Entrepreneurial Spirit**, who contribute to a strong and prosperous economy and society.

(Ministerial Order 001/2013)

Your
Turn

What would being an:

- ▶ **E**ngaged Learner
- ▶ **E**thical Citizen
- ▶ **E**ntrepreneurial Spirit

look like for our mentors and mentees?

Where are our Mentors and Mentees?

- ▶ Creating a snapshot of your school environment

Lunch



Alberta Mentoring Partnership

► www.albertamentors.ca

Erik Carter

► <http://inclusiveeducationpdresources.ca/peer-mentoring/>

Wiki

► <https://abpeermentoring.wikispaces.com/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of a wiki titled "Peer Mentoring: Creating Inclusive School Communities". The header is a blue banner with the title and a small logo. Below the header is a sidebar with navigation links: Wiki Home, Recent Changes, Pages and Files, Members, and a Search box. The main content area has a "home" heading, a "Welcome to the Peer Mentoring: Creating Inclusive School Communities Wiki!" message, and a "Background" section. The background section describes the wiki as a collaboration between the Alberta Regional Professional Learning Consortia, Alberta Education, the Alberta Mentoring Project, and the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium. At the bottom of the main content area are three logos: the Alberta Regional Consortia logo, the Alberta Government logo, and the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium logo.

Peer Mentoring: Creating Inclusive School Communities

Wiki Home
Recent Changes
Pages and Files
Members
Search

home Edit 0 10

Welcome to the Peer Mentoring: Creating Inclusive School Communities Wiki!

Background
The Alberta Regional Professional Learning Consortia, in collaboration with Alberta Education, the Alberta Mentoring Project and the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium, hosting a one-year community of practice.

 Alberta Regional Consortia

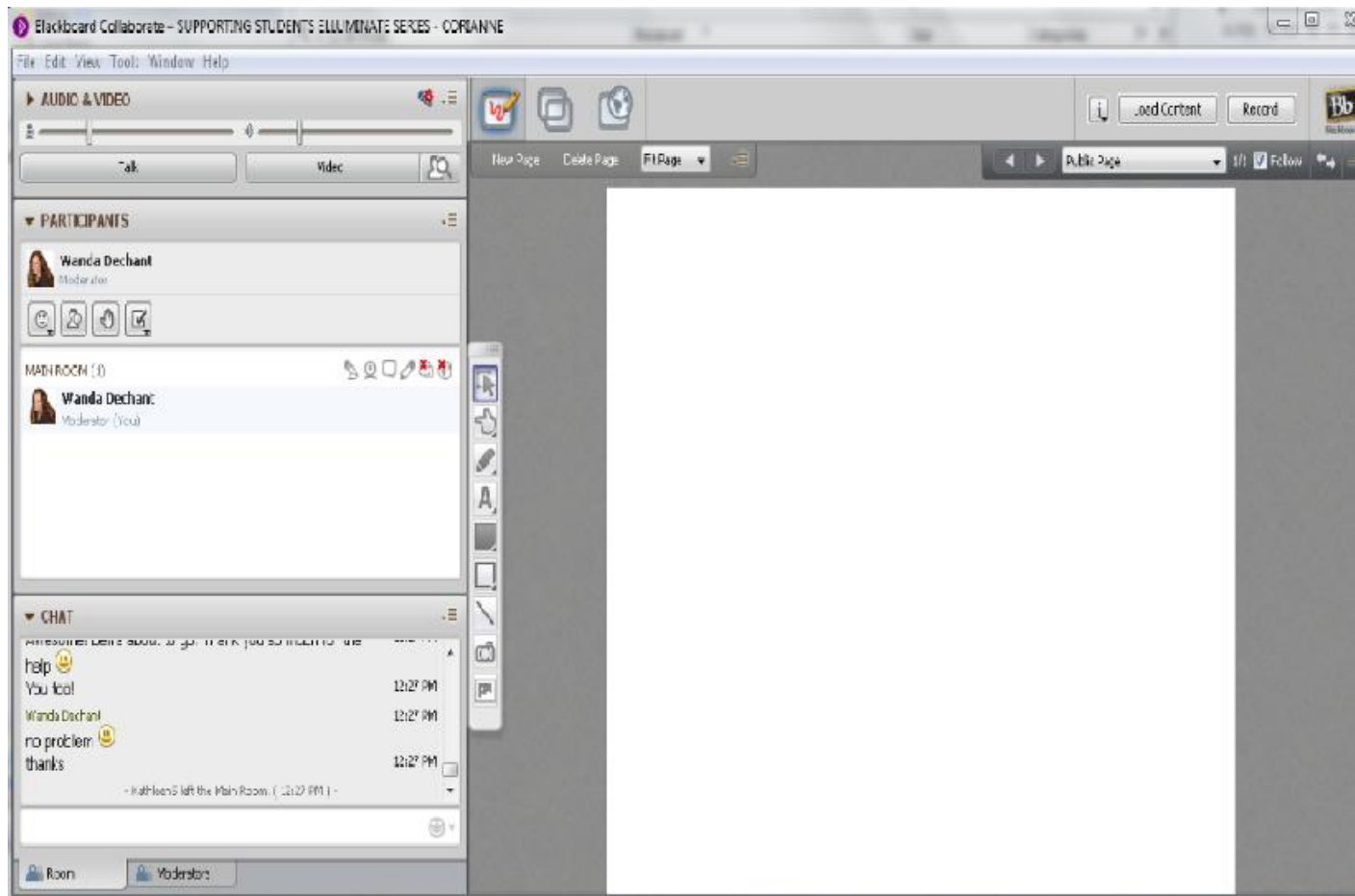
 Alberta Government

 EDMONTON Regional Learning CONSORTIUM
Partners in adult learning for students' sake
www.erlc.ca

Ning

► <http://reachingallstudents.ning.com>

Webinar - Blackboard Collaborate



Webinar Dates

- ▶ October 30 webinar
- ▶ December 4 webinar
- ▶ January 29 webinar
- ▶ April 23 webinar
- ▶ May 28 face-to-face day

3-2-1

- ▶ 3-2-1 Exit Slip - please don't leave without us taking a picture
- ▶ Surveys
- ▶ Expense Forms

Additional Resources and Links

- ▶ CTS resources <https://abpeermentoring.wikispaces.com/>
they are all accessible online under resources
- ▶ Inclusive Education Ning
<http://reachingallstudents.ning.com/>
- ▶ Inclusive Education Wiki
<https://abpeermentoring.wikispaces.com/>